

experiences (particularly during the first year), the psychological constitution of the child, and the particular mental mechanisms (identification, displacement, repression, etc.) to which he has recourse. It may be, for example, that from the beginning he succeeds in deflecting the hostility stirred by the new baby on to other objects (as in the various phobias); or in turning it on to himself in various forms of self-punishment—in either case achieving a social standard at great cost to himself. Or it may be that his aggressive impulses are constitutionally less intense, or that he has suffered less privation of one sort or another in his earliest relations with his mother; his capacity for love and his trust in the love of the parents is thus greater and more secure. As a rule, such children very early succeed in adopting a tender parental attitude to the helpless rival. The more aggressive child may also use this mechanism of identification with the parent as a mode of dealing with his fear and hatred of the intruder, but in his case the element of power and triumph will show very plainly through the cover of protection and care for the younger child. He will be a highly tyrannical parent, ordering and controlling, not allowing the other to have a soul of his own. The less aggressive child will be a less interfering and more truly helpful parent to the young brother or sister.

Bridges found, too, that the first bullying impulses of the older and bigger child to the younger and smaller usually change into a protective care, under the influence and example of the grown-ups. This is the normal course of events. But the parental attitude will not as a rule become altogether stable and reliable until much later in childhood. It will naturally break down under any special stress. The majority of ordinary children under adolescence will show both

attitudes, now bullying, now protective, to the younger children, from occasion to occasion, with of course individual variations in emphasis. And very naturally, they will be the more tender and protective when under the watching eye of an adult, and in a stable environment such as a good nursery school, and the more readily teasing or tyrannical when left alone with the little ones, or when in a less satisfactory general environment.

But this identification of himself with the parent on the part of the older child is itself one of the more subtle grounds